

PATH VILLAS SAN DIEGO

A COLLABORATIVE AND REPLICABLE SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS

Proposal by PATH/PATH Ventures, Affirmed Housing Group, and
Family Health Centers of San Diego for a Homeless Service Center and Housing

The selection committee recommends PATH Villas San Diego based upon “... *the PATH/Affirmed team’s proven successful approach to providing services and permanent supportive housing, the integration of a federally qualified, high-quality medical service provider, the project’s lower costs and amount of local funding required, the reliability of other proposed funding sources, the adaptive reuse of an existing available historic building, and the shorter schedule in which the center can begin operations.*” Housing Commission Report to LU&H Committee

THE CONCEPT

PATH Villas San Diego, modeled upon the highly acclaimed PATHMall in Los Angeles, is an integrated and collaborative Step Housing development that uses national best practices to maximize success in transitioning people from the streets into housing. The first “step” is entry into a welcoming and inclusive one-stop service center mall. From there, people transition to interim, and then permanent, housing while continuing to have access to supportive services that address the root causes of homelessness. All services will be located within the World Trade Center building at 1250 6th Avenue.

▲ First floor co-location of a newly re-located and expanded Downtown Family Health Center. Health and homelessness are inextricably linked. This **comprehensive clinic** will provide primary medical and mental health services.

▲ Office space for a diverse group of social service providers and government agencies, creating a **“shopping mall” of services** to meet individual needs. Spacious reception area for those awaiting services **avoids lines outside** the building.

▲ **150 interim housing beds** with access to shower and locker facilities quickly move people off the street. Monthly assessment of readiness to move into permanent housing. Not time-limited like a traditional emergency shelter. Clients will be encouraged to stay in the building throughout the day to access services.

▲ **73 permanent studio units** with private baths and kitchenettes for chronically homeless people who often resist programs and have multiple challenges. Residential case managers and continuing access to on-site supportive services help these residents stay off the street.

THE ADVANTAGES

Collaboration: Our team and the Mall bring a variety of service approaches on-site so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Speed: Because we don't have to start from scratch to build a new facility, but instead will remodel an existing structure, we will save time and be able to open our doors by the end of 2012.

Cutting Edge Best Practices: A key strength of our project is that it is based on a new approach that has been a significant success in many other cities. Housing First, or supportive housing, provides a place for homeless people to live and then supports them through services that address the issues that made them homeless in the first place.

Gets People Off the Street: With the Mall, full service health clinic, and housing options, virtually everything a homeless person may need to break the cycle of homelessness is available without leaving the building.

Replicable: Because the project is self-contained with services right on-site, it will have a low impact on the neighboring community and can be replicated in other areas.

Client Choice: The Mall provides an individualized approach for each homeless person so that resistance to one program or approach doesn't prevent success.

THE TEAM

PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)/PATH Ventures is Southern California's leader in supportive housing and other innovative approaches to ending homelessness. PATH offers homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services to 30 cities and has facilities in 5 cities in Los Angeles County, including the PATHMall, on which the San Diego project is modeled. PATH will operate the interim housing and mall services, as well as coordinating all residential services. In addition to providing direct case management services, PATH will oversee the program operations and ensure program quality and cohesiveness. PATH facilities operate under a Good Neighbor covenant that prioritizes getting homeless people off the street and minimizes the impact on the community.

Affirmed Housing Group is an award winning developer of affordable housing, based in San Diego. Affirmed has developed and operates over 2,200 affordable housing units throughout California. Recent San Diego projects include Ten Fifty B, Studio 15 and Auburn Park. Affirmed will act as a Master Developer, developing and operating the 73 units of permanent supportive housing.

Family Health Centers of San Diego is a family of nonprofit community clinics that provide primary, mental, and dental healthcare, with a particular emphasis upon the uninsured and under-served. FHCS is the nation's second largest federally qualified health clinic and has managed the federal Healthcare for the Homeless program in San Diego for more than two decades.